

# UNWRAPPING CHRISTMAS

## “Wrapped in Scandal”

### **Luke 1:26-35 (NLT)**

<sup>26</sup> ...God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. <sup>28</sup> Gabriel appeared to her and said, “Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!”

<sup>29</sup> **Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean.** <sup>30</sup> “Don’t be afraid, Mary,” the angel told her, “for you have found favor with God! <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup> And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!”

<sup>34</sup> Mary asked the angel, **“But how can this happen? I am a virgin.”** <sup>35</sup> The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So, the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God.

### **The Scandal of Mary**

### **The Shame of Joseph**

### **The Shock of Blame**

### **The Sins of Herod**

**Jesus’ BIRTH, His whole LIFE, and His DEATH were all surrounded by SCANDAL.**

**Jesus is NOT AFRAID to be around SCANDALS or SCOUNDRELS!**

### **Mark 2:13-14 (NLT)**

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus went out to the lakeshore again and taught the crowds that were coming to him. <sup>14</sup> As he walked along,

he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at his tax collector's booth. **"Follow me and be my disciple,"** Jesus said to him. So, Levi got up and followed him.

**Mark 2:15-16 (NLT)**

<sup>15</sup> Later, Levi invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, **along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. (There were many people of this kind among Jesus' followers.)** <sup>16</sup> But when the teachers of religious law who were Pharisees saw him eating with tax collectors and other sinners, they asked his disciples, **"Why does he eat with such scum?"**

**Mark 2:17 (NLT)**

<sup>17</sup> When Jesus heard this, he told them, **"Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners."**